

People First

She could be Baghdad's ultimate "people person." Senior Airman Kristina Marshall, an "aerial porter" assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group in Baghdad, Iraq, has seen enough of them to know. At last count, more than 148,000 people on 5,000 missions have flown into or out of the Baghdad International Airport since May.

But Airman Marshall takes it all in stride.

"It's motivating to remind yourself you are helping people," she said. "We got picked to work this rotation for a reason. That means something."

Airman Marshall is a reservist who's been activated for one year, and although she's attending college in her hometown, she's not in a hurry to get home. She's meeting Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, FBI agents, Iraqi police officers and contractors of all kinds along the way.

She keeps her Airman's coin from basic training in her pocket to remind her of her vital role.

"It helps me remember why I'm here," she said. "People may think it's corny, but it's true."

by Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor
photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers

"Some days, you just feel down and dirty, playing in the sand and driving the forklift. Others, you want to work with people."

Senior Airman Kristina Marshall
Air Transportation
447th Air Expeditionary Group, Baghdad, Iraq
Number of Airmen in Air Transportation: 4,643
Years in Air Force: 1
Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.